TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 25, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 20 totaled 18.4 billion ton-miles, up 6.1 percent from the 17.3 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first seven weeks of 1988 was an estimated 128.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 5.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended February 20 totaled 408,463, up 6.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.1 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 3.5 percent in the East and 8.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain loadings were up by 6,587 cars (25.3 percent), coal showed a gain of 6,444 cars (5.8 percent), and loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand showed an increase of 2,684 cars (26.5 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended February 13 totaled 102,985 trailers and/or containers, up 2.9 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first six weeks of the year was 605,327 trailers and/or containers, up 5.8 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/20/88:

	Loadings in Week ended February 20, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,649	I	6,587	25.3	I	234	0.7
Other farm products	3,919	I	683	21.1	D	69	1.7
Metallic ores	11,929	D	215	1.8	I	864	7.8
Coal	117,307	I	6,444	5.8	I	4,004	3.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,822	I	2,684	26.5	I	2,119	19.8
Nonmetallic minerals	10,046	I	1,188	13.4	D	51	0.5
Grain mill products	10,477	D	905	8.0	D	346	3.2
Food and kindred products	11,106	I	458	4.3	-	0	0.0
Primary forest products	10,334	I	127	1.2	D	316	3.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,832	D	657	7.7	D	20	0.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,496	D	491	3.8	I	184	1.5
Chemicals and allied products	26,707	D	1,218	4.4	D	1,727	6.1
Petroleum products	4,790	I	58	1.2	D	302	5.9
Stone, clay and glass products	9,434	I	894	10.5	I	301	3.3
Coke	5,837	I	1,606	38.0	I	243	4.3
Metals and products	10,586	I	2,629	33.0	I	170	1.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,341	D	1,305	6.0	I	701	3.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,661	I	1,138	13.4	I	183	1.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,519	I	2	0.1	I	14	0.6
All other carloads	77,671	I	3,237	4.3	D	1,672	2.1
Total Cars Loaded	408,463	I	22,944	6.0	I	4,514	1.1
Corresponding week of 1987	403,949						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (7 weeks)	2,836,960	2,690,424	I 5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
6 weeks ended February 13	109.7	103.7	I 5.7
Week ended February 20	18.4	17.3	I 6.1
7 Weeks cumulative	128.1	121.1	I 5.8

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